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Summary record of the 64th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 27 June 2006, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Manczyk (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Poland)
later: Mr. Ashe (Chairman) ..... (Antigua and Barbuda)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Saha

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(b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (*continued*)

Organization of work

In the absence of Mr. Ashe (Antigua and Barbuda), Mr. Maniczsk (Poland), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

Agenda item 122: Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations *(continued)*

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Agenda item 136: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations *(continued)*

Investing in the United Nations: for a stronger Organization worldwide: detailed report (continued) (A/60/846/Add.7 and A/60/903)

1. **Mr. Sach** (Controller) drew attention to addendum 7 to the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Investing in the United Nations: for a stronger Organization worldwide: detailed report", which responded to the General Assembly's request that the Secretary-General should propose terms of reference and resource requirements for the Independent Audit Advisory Committee which it had decided to establish by its resolution 60/248.

2. Recalling that provisional terms of reference had been attached to the report on the implementation of decisions from the 2005 World Summit Outcome for action by the Secretary-General (A/60/568), he indicated that the updated terms of reference in the current document further clarified the appointment criteria, terms and compensation of the members of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee and various operational details, in the light of the independent external review of governance and oversight.

3. The General Assembly was requested to approve the proposed terms of reference and associated preparatory arrangements for the Independent Audit Advisory Committee, and to appropriate the necessary resources. The proposal included the establishment of a support unit to assist with meetings of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee and provide liaison between it and the General Assembly, the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), the Board of Auditors and other oversight bodies.

4. **Mr. Saha** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ)), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/60/903), said that the Advisory Committee could not comment on the updated terms of reference of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee until the reports of the Secretary-General on oversight and governance had been made available. Under those circumstances, it recommended that a decision on non-post requirements should be deferred, pending the required General Assembly decisions on the Independent Audit Advisory Committee.

5. However, the Advisory Committee recommended that the equivalent of six months of general temporary assistance at the P-5, P-3 and General Service levels should be approved at the current stage in order to complete the organizational and preparatory work needed for the Independent Audit Advisory Committee support unit. It also took the view that it would be useful for the Secretary-General to proceed, in consultation with the Member States, with the task of identifying potential candidates for the Independent Audit Advisory Committee in order not to delay its entry into operation once the General Assembly had come to the necessary decisions. That work could begin without any additional appropriation of resources.

6. **Mr. Weidinger** (Austria), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that, as the reports of the Secretary-General on oversight and governance were not currently before the Committee, the European Union was willing to postpone debate on the updated terms of reference of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee. However, because the General Assembly had already decided to establish that body, the European Union favoured allocating enough resources for the Independent Audit Advisory Committee to become operational without undue delay once its terms of reference had been adopted.

7. **Mr. Repasch** (United States of America), recalling that the world leaders attending the 2005

Summit had identified improved oversight at the United Nations as a critical component of reform, said that organizations with strong and transparent oversight were both more effective and more credible. The Independent Inquiry Committee into the oil-for-food programme and several independent studies had indicated the importance of strengthening OIOS and, particularly, of making it more independent from the Secretariat.

8. The proposal to establish an Independent Audit Advisory Committee would contribute to better oversight, but a number of questions regarding that body remained to be answered, as the Advisory Committee had pointed out. His delegation favoured proceeding with the recruitment of qualified experts while terms of reference were further developed. Moreover, in the interest of increasing the independence of OIOS, it supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation, in paragraph 12 of its report (A/60/903), that OIOS should be authorized to submit its budget to the General Assembly via the Advisory Committee.

9. **Mr. Kozaki** (Japan) said that the issue in question must be considered fully and thoroughly in the broader context of the comprehensive governance and oversight review. To reduce the risk of delay in the full entry into operation of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee, the Fifth Committee should provide the initial resource requirements to move that important reform effort forward. The Japanese delegation endorsed the recommendations of the Advisory Committee in that regard.

10. *Mr. Ashe (Antigua and Barbuda) took the Chair.*

11. **Mr. Elnaggar** (Egypt) said that his delegation would like information from the Chairman regarding the timing of the Committee's consideration of documents. Although the Secretariat had introduced document A/60/846/Add.7, the Committee was still awaiting the introduction of documents A/60/846/Add.5 and Add.6.

12. **The Chairman** said that document A/60/846/Add.5 would be introduced the next day, while document A/60/846/Add.6 was a work in progress.

Agenda item 124: Programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 *(continued)*

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (continued) (A/60/7/Add.39 and Add.41 and A/60/585/Add.3 and Add.4)

13. **Ms. Van Buerle** (Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division), introducing the reports of the Secretary-General regarding the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) (A/60/585/Add.3) and the International Independent Investigation Commission and the United Nations Office in Timor-Leste (UNOTIL) (A/60/585/Add.4), recalled that budgets had been approved for UNAMA until 31 March 2006, for the Commission until 16 June 2006 and for UNOTIL until 20 May 2006, under General Assembly resolution 60/255, as part of the overall resource allocation for special political missions.

14. By its resolution 1662 (2006), the Security Council had extended the mandate of UNAMA for one year, until 22 March 2007. The Mission's requirements from 1 April to 31 December 2006 amounted to $54,890,600 net; however, as an unencumbered balance of $2,780,900 remained from the earlier appropriation, its additional requirements for the period would total $52,109,700 net, to be devoted in part to covering 365 additional posts at nine new regional sub-offices, with corresponding support in the field and in Kabul.

15. The General Assembly was consequently requested to approve the proposed budget for the Mission for the period from 1 April to 31 December 2006, noting that part of the requirements would be met from the unencumbered balance available; to approve a charge of $51,908,500 corresponding to the unassigned balance in the provision for special political missions; and to appropriate, under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 41/213, an amount of $201,200 under section 3, Political affairs, and $4,944,600 under section 35, Staff assessment, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.

16. Since the issuance of the report of the Secretary-General regarding the International Independent Investigation Commission and the United Nations Office in Timor-Leste (UNOTIL) (A/60/585/Add.4),

the Security Council, by its resolution 1686 (2006), had extended the mandate of the Commission until 15 June 2007 and, by its resolution 1690 (2006), had extended the mandate of UNOTIL until 20 August 2006. The resource requirements for the Commission from 16 June to 31 December 2006 amounted to $17,189,080 net; however, an unencumbered balance of $3,006,280 remained from the earlier appropriation. The estimated resource requirements for a technical rollover of UNOTIL for the period from 21 June to 31 August 2006 were $5,253,500 net; however, as an unencumbered balance of $256,300 remained from the earlier appropriation, additional requirements for the period would total $4,997,200 net.

17. The General Assembly was consequently requested to approve the proposed budget for the Commission for the period from 16 June to 31 December 2006 and the proposed budget for UNOTIL for the period from 21 June to 31 August 2006, noting that part of the requirements would be met from the unencumbered balances available, and to appropriate under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 41/213, an amount of $19,180,000 under section 3, Political affairs, and $2,508,500 under section 35, Staff assessment, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.

18. **Mr. Saha** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ)), introducing the related reports of ACABQ (A/60/7/Add.39 and Add.41), said that, by and large, the Advisory Committee had recommended acceptance of the Secretary-General's estimate for UNAMA. The Mission's persistently high vacancy rate called into question its ability to carry out its mandated functions effectively and made it difficult for the Advisory Committee to analyse requests for the continuation of posts or the creation of new posts. The Personnel Management and Support Service in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations should provide support in order to expedite the recruitment of personnel and the filling of vacancies. The Committee expected to see an improvement in that regard in the next budget.

19. Most of the proposed staff increase related to national staff. The Advisory Committee welcomed that approach, believing that the use of national staff and the gradual replacement of international staff with national staff, wherever feasible and cost-effective, should be encouraged (A/59/736, para. 58). The Advisory Committee had highlighted the transformation of the Counter-narcotics Unit into a separate entity and pointed to a lack of information as to the functions of the Unit and the interaction of the Mission (including support received) with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. It had also indicated the need to identify the division of labour among partners and the cooperation of other United Nations funds, programmes and agencies. Information should be provided in that regard in future so as to enable the Advisory Committee to advise the General Assembly properly.

20. Resources for the International Independent Investigation Commission and the United Nations Office in Timor-Leste (UNOTIL) were provided for under special political missions. With regard to the Commission, the Advisory Committee had expressed concern about the large number of vacant posts, including at high grade levels. For the Investigations Division, it was recommending approval of the requested additional positions and of the reclassification of one post. For support services, it also recommended approval of additional positions, including language services and security posts. With regard to administration, however, it was recommending against the approval of additional Field Service positions. The Advisory Committee had repeatedly insisted on the need for cooperation among United Nations entities in the region. The Secretary-General should ensure cooperation from the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and/or the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in that regard.

21. As for UNOTIL, pending a decision by the Security Council, the Secretary-General was seeking resource requirements for a technical rollover of the existing mandate of UNOTIL for the period from 21 June to 31 August 2006. The Advisory Committee recommended acceptance of the Secretary-General's request.

22. **Mr. Weidinger** (Austria), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the European Union recognized the important functions performed by UNAMA, UNOTIL and the International Independent Investigation Commission and stood ready to appropriate adequate resources for them. In particular, it underlined the need to provide the necessary resources to UNOTIL at the current crucial time. It was prepared to approve additional resources in light of any

proposals that might be submitted to the Committee following assessment team visits and any future Security Council decisions in that regard. It would comment on resource-specific issues, including the recommendations of ACABQ, during informal consultations.

23. **Ms. Shah** (United States of America) said that UNAMA, the Commission and UNOTIL were all playing vital roles in the countries in which they served. Her delegation was encouraged by their activities to date. Nevertheless, much remained to be done, and her delegation looked forward to reviewing the resource requests in that regard.

24. Her delegation was particularly pleased to note the efforts of UNAMA to establish additional regional offices in existing facilities used by other United Nations entities and to share the costs of facilities and services with those entities. It also welcomed the voluntary contributions of the Government of Lebanon to the International Independent Investigation Commission and encouraged additional contributions from Member States in that regard.

25. **Mr. Tarrisse da Fontoura** (Brazil) said that the special political missions in question were valuable instruments in the pursuit of peace. His delegation wished to address, in particular, the issue of Timor-Leste and the need to provide UNOTIL with the means to fulfil its mandate adequately until such time as the Security Council decided on the future United Nations presence in that country.

26. Timor-Leste was a priority of Brazil's foreign policy. His Government had assisted the Timorese people during the entire nation-building process, supported United Nations efforts via the United Nations Mission in East Timor (UNAMET), the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) and the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET), and cooperated with Timor-Leste as a sister Portuguese-speaking nation. The recent surge in violence and the unfolding political crisis in the country highlighted the need for a continuing United Nations presence capable of helping the Timorese people to strengthen their institutions and settle their disputes.

27. Recent events strengthened the case against precipitous decisions by the United Nations to withdraw from countries before stability was ensured. The human price of such decisions was too high. His delegation stressed the need for the Committee to approve the entire budget for the remaining months of the UNOTIL mandate. The Office had bravely fulfilled its obligation and would remain in place until such time as the Security Council took a decision on an adequate, reinforced United Nations presence capable of ensuring the support required by Timor-Leste.

28. The United Nations could not fail Timor-Leste or its people. The technical rollover was meant to provide the United Nations and its Member States with the time needed to plan an adequate response to the new crisis, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1690 (2006). By adopting the UNOTIL budget, the Committee would send a vigorous message of support to the Timorese people. Brazil was willing to work constructively in all forums to support Timor-Leste.

29. **Mr. Torres Lépori** (Argentina) said that his delegation was very concerned about recent events in Timor-Leste, which it was following closely. His delegation associated itself fully with the statement made by the representative of Brazil and would work constructively during informal consultations to ensure that UNOTIL had all the resources needed to implement its mandate effectively.

30. **Mr. Hussain** (Pakistan) said that UNAMA had provided critical support for the implementation of the Bonn Agreement, the convening of the constitutional Loya Jirga, the conduct of provincial and presidential elections and the demobilization and reintegration of soldiers. His delegation agreed that the Mission needed to be strengthened.

31. However, Pakistan remained concerned about recent developments and the ongoing instability in Afghanistan, which directly affected neighbouring countries such as itself. Inadequate international support for economic rehabilitation and for extending security coverage beyond the capital had been a critical factor. The continuing drug problem and the presence of regional warlords had kept Afghanistan in a state of perpetual instability. Such issues were of concern for the Afghan people and for neighbouring countries.

32. The oft-repeated request for new units in the Mission, in particular regional offices, had finally been taken into account. He hoped that those offices would help strengthen security and stability in the country. His delegation took note of the establishment of a Joint Mission Analysis Centre, which it hoped would provide objective information and strengthen political

stability in Afghanistan. His delegation would be raising a question during informal consultations regarding what it saw as an overlap between the Centre and the Mission's existing political unit.

Agenda item 121: Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors *(continued)* (A/C.5/60/L.43)

Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.43

33. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to consider draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.43, entitled "Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors", which had been submitted on his behalf by the representative of Egypt.

34. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.43 was adopted.*

Agenda item 135: Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 *(continued)* (A/C.5/60/L.41)

Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.41

35. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.41, entitled "Revised estimates arising in respect of Security Council resolution 1660 (2006) on the appointment of reserve judges at the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991", which had been submitted on his behalf by the representative of Namibia.

36. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.41 was adopted.*

Agenda item 149: Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East *(continued)*

(b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon *(continued)*

37. **Ms. Udo** (Nigeria) said that, despite the Committee's considerable efforts during informal consultations, it had not reached consensus on a draft resolution concerning agenda item 149 (b). As in the past, some paragraphs had proved problematic. There seemed to be general agreement that the Committee members had done their best and would not resolve their differences, even with more time. As coordinator, she could do no more.

Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.42

38. **The Chairman** said that, in light of the situation just described by the representative of Nigeria, the representative of South Africa had submitted, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.42, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon".

39. **Ms. Lock** (South Africa), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.42 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, recalled that in previous resolutions dating back to the General Assembly's fifty-first session, the Assembly had stressed that Israel should pay for damages resulting from the incident at Qana on 18 April 1996. In his report on the budget for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 (A/60/642), the Secretary-General had noted that that provision had not been met. The Group was therefore submitting a draft resolution in which the General Assembly's previous request was reiterated in the fourth preambular paragraph and in paragraphs 3, 4 and 17.

40. **The Chairman** said that the Committee would take action on draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.42 at a subsequent meeting.

Organization of work

41. **Ms. Lock** (South Africa), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that she hoped that the Committee would be able to conclude all peacekeeping-related matters as quickly as possible. The Group was ready to work with other colleagues to ensure that the Secretariat was able to start preparing the various draft resolutions before the end of the day, so that they could be adopted by the General Assembly by the 30 June deadline in order to ensure financing for peacekeeping operations.

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.